

The Chenoweth Baronetcy

It Was Lost and Was Revived

By F. A. MITCHEL

When James Chenoweth, having lost both father and mother, decided to sell the homestead and go abroad for a while he sat himself down to examine a large number of papers that had been accumulating for many years. Indeed, there were documents among them that dated back more than two centuries. There was a tradition in the family that the first Chenoweth in America had been a soldier of King Charles under Prince Rupert and, when the Protector Cromwell prevailed, had come to America to make a new home for himself.

The family documents were kept in what was called a hair trunk, from being covered with the skin of some animal from which the hair had not been removed. James Chenoweth spent many hours over the contents of the trunk, reading the papers. In time he took up a paper which he unfolded. It was a fragment yellow with age. The ink was also faded and almost illegible. James put it in his pocket, intending to try to decipher it later, for words in it which he could easily read seemed to refer to his ancestors. What he ultimately made out was this:

"At the beginning of the parliamentary wars James Chenoweth, son and heir of Sir Ralph Chenoweth, out to fight for the king. His Arthur, two years his brothers were enough. At the end of the war having been lost, went to America, his home and when the Chenoweth James. Chenoweth

Chenoweth resolved that during his travels he would visit England and hunt up his ancestral record. Placing the fragment in his portmanteau, he made his preparations and in due time went abroad. At a hotel in Switzerland, where he found a mixture of English and Americans, he fell in with an English family named Smithson.

The main attraction in this family was Miss Gladys Smithson, a girl about twenty years old. Both she and Chenoweth were fond of winter sports, and they were where they could enjoy them to perfection. Miss Smithson was the only child of her parents, and Chenoweth learned that through her mother she was an heiress. Since he possessed an income of barely \$2,000 a year, he repressed any desire he felt to make love to the young lady.

This was fortunate, for Miss Smithson's mother, who had an interest in her daughter's adding to rather than dividing her prospective fortune, not suspecting that there was any special interest between the two young persons, made no objection to their being together, and when they separated she invited Chenoweth when he came to England to call upon them at their home in that country.

Perhaps neither Chenoweth nor Miss Smithson realized the delicate bond that had been slowly forming between them till the moment of separation came. Gladys gave him her hand at parting, and he held it just a trifle longer than at an adieu between mere friends. Miss Smithson looked at the floor. Chenoweth looked into her face, then released her hand and turned away.

He met many young women on his travels, but none of them caused him to banish from a spot very near to his heart the image of Miss Smithson. He had planned a trip to Russia, but, bearing in his memory the image of his companion in Switzerland, he shrank from a visit to that cold country and resolved to forego the trip and give himself more time in England.

When Chenoweth arrived in London he sent his card to the Smithsons at their ancestral home in the county of Kent, with the result that he received an invitation to visit them for a week end. As he was driven into the place between two imposing gateway pillars and up to the manor house, through an avenue arched with trees that had been hundreds of years growing, his heart sank within him, for he realized that an American with a beggary two thousand a year could never aspire to the hand of the girl who would inherit such a splendid home.

Whether Mrs. Smithson had discovered in her daughter a disposition to pine for Chenoweth and scented danger, certain it is that the mother received him without the cordiality he expected. Her daughter, on the contrary, welcomed him with a mingling of pleasure and embarrassment. During his brief visit there were moments of exquisite pleasure for both him and Gladys, succeeded by moments of depression. There was a union of hearts, but they were constantly reminded that any other union was impossible.

When Chenoweth was making this visit, one afternoon while Gladys was engaged, he was entertained by her mother. He mentioned the fact that his ancestors had come from England and his discovery of the fragment among his family papers. The lady was doing some kind of knitting while

he was talking to her, on which she kept her eyes, but Chenoweth noticed that as he passed from one point to another she was becoming deeply interested. Finally she asked abruptly to see the fragment to which he had referred. Taking it from his portmanteau, he handed it to her.

"For some time her eyes were bent upon it, while the American's were bent upon her. Evidently there was something in this bit of yellow paper, torn in half, that moved her profoundly. She handed it back to him without remark, but he noticed a slight tremor of her hand as she did so. Presently, evidently nervous herself to something, she asked:

"Mr. Chenoweth, do you intend to look up your ancestry while in England?"

She awaited his reply with suppressed emotion.

"That is my intention," he replied. "But I don't know where to begin."

There was no reply to this. Later Miss Smithson reappeared, and the two young persons went out into the grounds together.

Chenoweth was to return to London the next morning. What was his surprise before going to bed to be asked by Mrs. Smithson to remain longer. He replied that nothing stood in the way of his doing so, and his departure was deferred. Mrs. Smithson's treatment of him seemed to be undergoing a change, though she did not seem to have made up her mind with regard to his attentions to her daughter. On the second day after her interview with him during which he had showed her the fragment she asked him to let her see it again. He did so, and she asked him if he would object to giving her a copy of it. He at once complied with her request.

The next day Mrs. Smithson announced that she must go to London to do some shopping. She charged her daughter to take good care of the guest during her absence, which was entirely unnecessary, for it was evident that Miss Gladys was as much enamored of Chenoweth as he was with her. The lovers were in a seventh heaven during the mother's absence, which lasted several days.

Chenoweth was puzzled. Why did Mrs. Smithson leave him with her daughter during this interval? Why had she changed in her treatment of him? There was no explanation. On her return the mystery deepened. She would not hear of Chenoweth's departure, saying that she was planning some social functions at which she desired his presence.

Chenoweth was beside himself. His attentions to Gladys were very noticeable, and her mother was encouraging them. She had no information concerning his standing in America nor as to his income, which, it was evident from his careful expenditures, was not large. Why, then, was she giving him every opportunity to win her daughter when that daughter might make a very advantageous match?

Chenoweth was anxious to hunt up the records of his ancestry, and he realized that to do this he must go to London. Gladys had told him that he had better go to an office of her aid. But whenever he proposed to depart Mrs. Smithson objected, and he deferred his going.

And so it was that Chenoweth kept putting off his departure until one evening, while out on the terrace with Gladys, under the moonlight, he told her that he loved her, but he knew that owing to his limited means a marriage with her was impossible.

Then they conferred together upon what Mrs. Smithson meant by encouraging this match, but as neither of them knew they simply wondered. It was finally agreed between them that Chenoweth should learn what was in store for them by asking for Gladys's hand.

He approached Mr. Smithson with doubt and fear. He was given to understand that if he was acceptable to the daughter he would be acceptable to the parents. This thrilled him, and he went to Gladys with the good news at once. At a subsequent interview he gave Mr. Smithson a statement of his financial affairs, to which the gentleman listened with respectful attention, but made no comment. If Chenoweth's mind had not been taken up with love, curiosity would have come in to claim its share of attention.

Chenoweth did not leave the manor house till he departed on his wedding journey. When he returned he was saluted by his mother-in-law and every one else as Sir James. When the first excitement attending the couple's return had worn off Chenoweth was informed of what had been going on during his courtship.

Mrs. Smithson had inherited her estate through the female branch of Chenoweths. She was aware that the heir to the title had two centuries before disappeared in America. On receipt of a copy of Chenoweth's fragment she had taken it to a herald of office in London, and they had given her the following reading of it when complete:

"At the beginning of the parliamentary wars James Chenoweth, son and heir of Sir Ralph Chenoweth, went out to fight for the king. His brother, Arthur, two years his junior, joined the parliamentary forces. The two brothers were enough alike to be twins. At the end of the war, the king's cause having been lost, James Chenoweth went to America. Arthur returned to his home and succeeded to the title. When the restoration came James Chenoweth had died, leaving a son, John. The sons of James Chenoweth are the rightful heirs to the Chenoweth title and estates."

Mrs. Smithson's action was explained. By taking James Chenoweth for a son-in-law she revived the baronetcy and secured for her daughter the estates which were legally his.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNISM

Acts 4:32-5:15—February 29.
Christ's Sympathetic, Loving Spirit Illustrated in the Church—Love "Seeketh Not Her Own" Interests Only. Communism Tried—Why It Failed.

"Love one another from the heart fervently.—1 Peter 1:22.

THE Record tells us that the number of believers was more than five thousand in a little while. The spirit of love began to burn in their hearts—thankfulness to God, appreciation of His favor, a desire to serve Him and sympathy and love for the brotherhood. Some were poorer than others; and, controlled by the spirit of love, they felt that they would wish all the poorer brethren to have just as good as themselves. First they gave privately one to another, and they realized the needs. Then the matter went further, and they organized a little community. Many of the wealthier sold their possessions, and turned in the money to the Lord's treasury, desiring that a certain amount be supplied to themselves and all other members of the community—share and share alike.

This manifested a very beautiful spirit, and under perfect conditions would have been the wise and proper course. As it was, however, the community proved a failure. Apparently the Lord permitted that test and failure to show us that no such community amongst His people is possible at the present time. As soon as Messiah's Kingdom is established, the community principle will prosper wonderfully. But it is impracticable now, as it was in the days of the Apostles.

This lesson introduces us to Barnabas, a godly man and wise, a mighty power in the Church. His proper name was Joses; and he must have been a very fine character when the Apostles named him Barnabas—implying that he had a beautiful spirit, and in his daily life was a "son of consolation" to all with whom he had contact. Barnabas had a property or estate. This he sold, and brought the proceeds to the Apostles' feet. He was not an Apostle; for of them there were only twelve, and at this time only eleven, because of the loss of Judas. St. Paul, the twelfth Apostle, the Lord's chosen vessel, had not yet had his eyes opened to the truth of the Gospel.

Ananias and his wife Sapphira also sold their property, and kept back a portion of the price, bringing the remainder to the Apostles as though it were the entire sum. Indeed, in conspiring between themselves, they had agreed to declare that the money which they turned in to the treasury was all that they had received from the property. Our lesson tells how St. Peter treated the matter, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He pointed out to Ananias that the property was his own, that he was neither compelled nor urged to donate it to this community, that it was his own voluntary gift, and that he had lied to God, not merely to the community. Hearing these words, Ananias fell dead—smitten of the Lord. A little later, his wife Sapphira suffered similarly.

Why Repentance Was Not Preached. We query, Why did not St. Peter point out to Ananias and Sapphira wherein they had erred, urge them to repentance, and join with them in prayer rather than pronounce upon them the death penalty?

Our thought is that these two cultists were not really God's children—that they had never received the begetting of the Holy Spirit; and that the Lord took this opportunity to give the Church a great lesson—to remind them that they were dealing, not with flesh and blood, but with Jehovah God. From this viewpoint, it was worth while to sacrifice these two persons under Divine judgment with a view to teaching the Church how displeasing in God's sight is hypocrisy—especially in respect to religious things.

If these two were spirit-begotten, their destruction would be the Second Death; and we would have no Scriptural ground for expecting them to have any resurrection or future consideration from the Lord. But if they were merely children of this world, not fully appreciative of spiritual things, their future interests are not destroyed. They still belong to the great world of mankind, of whom Christ died, and who have not yet received in full the blessings of reconciliation with God through the Lord Jesus. Such glorious favor may be expected for the world in general during the Millennium, when "all the families of the earth shall be blessed," and brought to a knowledge of the "truth and to an opportunity of accepting unto salvation."

Our charitable thought for Ananias and Sapphira is that, not having received the Holy Spirit, they but imperfectly appreciated what they were doing; that they have not sinned unto death; and that in the resurrection time they will have opportunity to show their loyalty or disloyalty to God.



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Order of Publication.

State of Michigan, the Circuit Court for the County of Shiawassee in Chancery.
Arthur Utter, Complainant,
vs.
Elizabeth Utter, Defendant.

Suit pending in the Circuit Court for the County of Shiawassee, in Chancery, at the City of Corunna in said County on the 10th day of January, A. D. 1918.

In this cause it appearing from affidavit on file that the defendant Elizabeth Utter is a resident of this state, that her home was in the City of Grand Rapids, this state, that process for her appearance has been duly issued, to-wit on the 14th day of December 1918; that the same could not be served by reason of her absence from or concealment within this state, or by reason of her continued absence from her place of residence.

On motion of Leon F. Miner complainant's solicitor, it is ordered that the said defendant, Elizabeth Utter, cause her appearance to be entered herein, within three months from the date of this order and in case of her appearance that she cause her answer to the complainant's bill of complaint to be filed, and a copy thereof to be served on said complainant's solicitor within twenty days after service on her of a copy of said bill and notice of this order; and that in default thereof, said bill be taken as confessed by the said defendant.

And it is further ordered, that within twenty days the said complainant cause a notice of this order to be published in the Owosso Times a newspaper printed, published and circulating in said county, and that such publication be continued therein at least once in each week for six weeks in succession, or that he cause a copy of this order to be personally served on said defendant at least twenty days before the time above prescribed for her appearance.

SELDEN S. MINER,
Circuit Judge.

LEON F. MINER,
Solicitor for Complainant.
Business address, Owosso, Michigan.

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WOULD CHEY CAPITOL DRY?

Underwood Offers Bill for District of Columbia Referendum.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The first legislative move to check the dry wave which appears to be ready to sweep over the District of Columbia was made in the senate when Senator Underwood introduced a bill providing for a referendum vote by males over twenty-one of the district whenever twenty-five per cent of the tax payers shall petition for it.

The bill is offered as a substitute for the Sheppard bill which provides for a dry Washington absolutely. It is conceded that the last stand of the wets will be behind the referendum proposal. The sentiment is very strong in congress for prohibition in the district.

New Jersey Defeats Local Option.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 16.—Local option met defeat in the assembly. The Gaunt bill, which had squeezed through the senate with a margin of one extra vote, was defeated by a vote of 40 to 19.

Held as Safe Blower.

Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 16.—Frank Morrissey was arrested here accused of being one of the two men who blew a safe in St. Paul and engaged in a revolver battle with the police.

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- "Emperor Constantine, Trinity Maker."
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Veteran Mining Man Dies.
Lake Linden, Feb. 16.—Samuel Gato, veteran mining man and resident of the copper country for more than thirty years, is dead.

Old Resident Is Dead.
Escanaba, Feb. 16.—James Crawford, resident of Escanaba for more than half a century, is dead at the age of seventy-eight years.

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